

# **2018 ANNUAL REPORT**

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in Cod & our Neighbor Bethesda's Mission is to experience the clear and strong presence of God and to understand and spread Christ's Ricie Fellowship & Stewardship teachings through collective worship, learning, Nurturing Family & Think and service.

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**JANUARY 27, 2019** 

### From the Rector

I am now halfway through my eighth year serving as Rector of this amazing parish. We continue to grow spiritually and more fully live into the mission to which God calls us: *to experience the clear and strong presence of God and to understand and spread Christ's teachings through collective worship, learning, and service.* 

In 2018 we came to look at this mission through a couple of new lenses. First, we continued a journey of learning about and experiencing the presence of God through Celtic Christianity—that tradition that grew in Ireland and through Scotland, England, and Wales over 1,000 years ago.

This Celtic framework structured my sabbatical time last summer. Eli and I continue to feel such a deep sense of connection to God, one another, and our parish family as a result of our sabbatical time. Our summer in the British Isles provided a time of deep rest, profound spiritual renewal, tremendous learning, sweet time just to reconnect, and many opportunities to forge new friendships.

Moreover, this Celtic dimension to our life will continue to grow and to shape us through the incorporation of prayers, through using Celtic liturgies at our Tuesday and Wednesday Eucharists, and through informing the other important lens we began to consider in 2018: Evangelism.

At last year's Annual Meeting I said that if we just got more used to even talking about Evangelism, if we just got to the point of being comfortable with our discomfort with the idea of Evangelism, we will have made great progress. We certainly accomplished that. With our Evangelism workshop in December, which included over 70 parishioners and dozens of sisters and brothers from other congregations in the Diocese, we found encouragement and practical steps we can take to better learn how this practice will help us to grow even more vibrant and joyful as a parish family by sharing the gift we have in our faith.

Both these lenses will continue to help us focus our life and ministry as we continue to strengthen and improve even our core ministries.

We welcomed Mother Margaret McGhee to serve as our Curate in June and celebrated with her as she was ordained to the priesthood in September in New York. She brings so many gifts to this parish, and we are blessed to benefit from those gifts as we help her grow into the fullness of her life as a priest.

We journeyed with our youth as they embarked on two mission trips this past summer and as they began preparations for a pilgrimage to Assisi this coming June. We saw participation in our Sunday Adult Forum and the Middle Way grow as more parishioners are committing to learning about the Bible, theology, worship, and how Christians are called to live in the world.

2018 proved to be another year of stewardship growth with over 100 new pledges and an overall increase in giving from parishioners. We continue to teach and to learn what it means to be a Communicant in Good Standing (working, praying, *and* giving for the spread of the Kingdom) in contrast to being simply a member on our rolls. We continue to realize that committing to this place by pledging as a Communicant in Good Standing really opens us up to an experience of joy and growth in our life of faith.

Of course, Bethesda would not be Bethesda apart from our vibrant life of worship. Our worship and music ministries form the bedrock for our entire parish life. I hope you all join me in giving God thanks for the gift of gathering together each week and on Holy Days in this sacred place that invites us ever deeper into an experience of the clear and strong presence of God.

In that worship, I find myself strengthened and nourished and joyfully called to serve God every day. I find gratitude beyond words for the privilege of serving as Rector of this parish and counting every one of you as a beloved brother or sister in Christ as we grow into our calling to be the beloved community of Christ in this place.

God bless,

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The. Rev. James R. Harlan, Rector



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## From the Senior Warden

#### Leadership and Governance Sub-Committee, Chair

2018 was an incredible year of renewal and new beginnings. It is an exciting time to be part of the Episcopal Church and to see Bethesda moving into a new phase of discovery and reinvention. We have been discovering new ways to understand our God-given natures, and how it affects how we relate to others, through the various Enneagram programs offered this year. We have been discovering new ways to think about our Christian beliefs and practices, through our exploration of Celtic Spirituality. And we have been reinventing some organizational structure and how we implement some of our ministry programs, including how we welcome newcomers.

Strong momentum in our shared vision empowered the congregation, staff, and Vestry to support Father James's sabbatical journey of spiritual discovery and renewal, which we will build on with our Celtic pilgrimage in May. Unity and confidence moved us to fulfill a long-time dream of nurturing and supporting a new priest in our midst, Mother Margaret McGhee. Deep examination of the effectiveness of important ministries has led to the restructuring of some and formation of others. The one I have been personally been involved in, Evangelism, started as a frank confrontation of our own preconceptions and inhibitions and has catalyzed the expansion of existing ministries and redefinition of others. What a groundbreaking milestone it was to host Canon Stephanie Spellers and members of Presiding Bishop Michael Curry's Evangelism Team here at Bethesda! I pray that the workshop they led has inspired us to aspire to become Episcopal Evangelists, and feel empowered to share our stories of the loving, liberating, and life-giving way of Jesus in our own lives and the world.

We have made substantive progress towards the goals of the last strategic plan. Financial controls and culture change have firmly established the practice of operating within balanced budget constraints. Our Sunday morning format has been continuously evolving to optimize the worship, education, and fellowship experiences within the time constraints. Significant progress has been made in increasing membership (with approximately 60 new members in 2018) and the number of pledging households in our congregation (from 413 to 528). Focus continues on ongoing priorities, especially worship and in adult education, the offering of useful and challenging adult forum topics and speakers. Building on this success, the Vestry worked throughout the year on developing a new plan, with ambitious objectives for the next five years. It will be released to the congregation shortly after the annual meeting.

I feel blessed to be part of this parish and the work that we are doing. I stand in awe of Bethesda's clergy and staff, their creativity and their unceasing devotion to our mission. I applaud Bethesda's Vestry and the many, many dedicated volunteers who give so generously of their time and talent, planning, leading, and carrying out our ministries. I thank all who support Bethesda financially, enabling these ministries which serve our congregation and our neighbors in need. All of you have inspired me as living examples of leading an authentic life of faith, and I feel deeply grateful for what you have taught me and for what we have accomplished.

I also feel deeply grateful to Father James for entrusting me with the role of Senior Warden, and for the partnership we have shared. Working with him has been an indescribable experience of learning, growing, and deepening my faith.

I feel great optimism about the path Bethesda is on and the capabilities of our 2019 leadership. I look forward to continuing to work alongside all of you in the Bethesda family, to the glory of God and the mission of our beloved church.

With blessings and love,

, Beth Cole, *Senior Warden* 



# From the Junior Warden

#### **Buildings and Grounds Sub-Committee, Chair**

As we conclude our committee operations for the busy year of 2018, the tower bells were heard across a grateful campus. New fiber optic technology and equipment installed under the direction of Hal Pysher restored their glorious sound after two years of silence cause by lightning strikes.

The church sound system, organ control updates, and interior lighting issues also received Hal's wisdom and input. Obsolete systems are now being replaced with LED technology, which will produce a more sensitive, cool, and less theatrical atmosphere. This is a capital project that will require two years to complete.

The church facade restoration work is now finished, but must be monitored. A comprehensive exterior water-proofing treatment plan has been created and will commence with the Bell Tower area. After extensive testing, the Te Deum widow leaks have been located and addressed. The possibility of soft lighting of this remarkable treasure is under study.

Church A/C and chiller systems have been evaluated and adjusted. Both need consistent maintenance.

The Vicarage was refreshed and made ready for the arrival of our new Curate, Mother Margaret. The Rectory driveway was repaired, security locks were installed as requested, and additional electrical power sources are being provided in the kitchen and family room. This residence is in urgent need of updated wiring and control panels. An electrical evaluation is in progress. This will be a major capital improvement.

The Parish Hall has been enhanced by the moveable divider wall, giving new flexibility to that facility's usage and project accommodations.

The Garage/Columbarium re-roofing work has been authorized and awaits completion.

Our trees and grounds have received extensive pruning and white fly treatments as recommended by the Town of Palm Beach. The Cluett Garden fish pond study indicates that improvements need to be designed in 2019.

The maintenance and preservation of our beautiful church buildings, gardens, and grounds must receive our dedication as faithful servants and grateful members of the Bethesda congregation. As a caretaker of God's house, I am honored to serve and appreciate the remarkable work of our general contractors, sextons, and administration who support this vital ministry.

Respectfully submitted,

Constance N. Rucell

Constance N. Purcell, Junior Warden



### Rector, Wardens, Officers, and Vestry

The Rev. James R. Harlan, Rector \*

#### Wardens, Officers, and Vestry

Beth Cole, Senior Warden *	(2019)		
Connie Purcell, Junior Warden *	(2021)		
Michelle Diffenderfer, <i>Clerk</i> *	(2020)		
Robert (Bob) Diffenderfer, Chancellor *#			
Zachary (Zach) Shipley, <i>Treasurer</i> #			
	(2010)		
Charles McGill	(2019)		
Kitty Lanier	(2019)		
Josephyne (Jodie) Payne *	(2019)		
Arthur (Sandy) Burdett	(2020)		
Paul Coombs	(2020)		
Peggy Johnson	(2020)		
Raphael Clemente	(2021)		
Charles Hagy, Jr.	(2021)		
Tanner Rose	(2021)		

#### \* Member of the Executive Committee # Not on Vestry

#### Vestry term expires at the Annual Meeting of the year indicated.

### **Vestry Nominations**

Nominating Task Force—Paul Coombs, Chair

### **Vestry Nominees**

#### Serving the Vestry Term 2019–2022

The Vestry presents all four nominees for Parish consideration to fill the four expiring Vestry positions.

At their December meeting in 2015, the Vestry approved a resolution presented by their Leadership and Governance Subcommittee to amend the By-Laws. This amendment, passed unanimously by all members present (17 of 19) will reduce the size of the Vestry to 13 members (12 elected members plus the Rector). This reduction will happen by nominating and electing only four new members to the vestry each year from now on, so that, in 2016, the Vestry will be 17 members, in 2017, 15 members, in 2018 and thereafter, 13 members.

This decision came primarily out of some continuing work with a consultant to help the Vestry to work more effectively through its regular meetings, through the Executive Committee, and through its four subcommittees.



**RICHARD CRONE** first attended Bethesda-by-the-Sea on monthly visits to Florida in 2001, then retiring in 2010 and relocating from Washington, D.C. to South Florida full time. He has attended several Episcopal parishes since 1965 and has never seen a Christian community that can compare to the accomplishments, inclusiveness, and outreach of Bethesda-by-the-Sea. In the past 18 years Richard has grown spiritually at Bethesda-by-the-Sea while attending book study groups, volunteering in the Shoppe, serving on the Buildings and Grounds committee, and serving now as an Ambassador. He has a background as an architect and with a discerning eye, he hopes to once again assist the Building and Grounds in their role as custodians of this most incredible iconic gift of a place we all enjoy and call home.



**BECKY MYERS** is a life-long Episcopalian and a member of Bethesda-bythe-Sea since 1980. She has been active in many aspects of the church and has chaired the following committees: Rector Search, ECW (president), Nominating, Mission & Outreach, Evangelism & Communications, Fellowship & Hospitality, Auction Underwriting, Bethesda-by-the-Sea golf tournament, Bethesda-bythe-Sea Spring Festival, and The Shoppe. She has previous Vestry experience, having served a term in the late 1990s and in 2012, when she was appointed for two years to fill a vacancy. She is trained as a Stephen minister and currently volunteers as a welcoming ambassador and a member of the Evangelism Committee. Professionally, Becky worked for thirty years in Palm Beach real estate sales. She has a degree from the University of Virginia and a master's degree in journalism & communications from the University of Florida. She and her husband, Jim, of 40 years have two sons and one grandson.



ZACH SHIPLEY is a senior financial executive retired from the Oxbow Group in West Palm Beach, where he held numerous executive, governance, and fiduciary positions for almost 35 years. Before joining Oxbow in 1983, Zach was a consultant with Bain & Company. He is now serving as Treasurer where he sees his key role as helping Vestry members to fully understand the Church's financial results and also the Church's governing documents: its corporate charter, its bylaws, and its financial policies, which are the foundation on which its financial controls are built. Zach has also played a leadership role in Bethesda's recent strategic planning efforts. Raised as an Episcopalian and confirmed in 1965, Zach graduated in 1970 from St. Albans School in Washington, D.C. He graduated in 1974 from Harvard College in Cambridge Mass. and from Harvard Business School in 1980.



MAURY WOLFE has been a member of Bethesda-by-the-Sea since 1985. She chairs the Flower Guild, is a Lector, an Ambassador and received the Rector's Cross in 2018. Maury is a native of Madison, New Jersey and graduated from Randolph Macon Women's College, majoring in American Studies. Professionally, she worked for the Orentreich Foundation for the Advancement of Science, was the founding director and general manager of the Chicago International Art Exposition, and directed Landfall Gallery. Maury served on the Rosarian Academy Board of Directors for nine years, where she initiated and chaired the Strategic Planning Committee. She established and chaired Cub Scout Pack 141. Maury has two sons, Graham and Read, and enjoys playing duplicate bridge.

\* Vestry Nominees were selected by the Nominating Committee after an exhaustive review process that at times included the consideration of more than thirty-five church members. The slate of four is presented to the members at the Annual Meeting for consideration to fill the open positions. Vestry members are elected by members in good standing. Persons eligible to vote must be sixteen years of age or older, regular in attendance, and contributors of record. One-third of the vestry is elected each year for a period of no more than three years. A person is eligible for re-election after one year has elapsed. A vestry member appointed to fill an unexpired term may be elected at the end of that term to serve a full term.

#### **Diocesan Convention Delegates**

William (Bill) Cini Janice (Jan) Shoobridge

Michael Smyser

Sandra Coombs (Alternate)

### From the Associate for Administration

**Evangelism Committee**—Beth Cole, *Chair*  **Fellowship & Hospitality Committee Personnel Working Group Retail Operations Working Group**—Pat Reichenbacher, *Chair* 

One of the realities of having a staff the size of Bethesda's is that every year will bring some changes in the personnel area. 2018 was no different. The most noticeable change was adding a curate, a priest serving in her/his first cure, their first parish. Mother Margaret McGhee started in June of 2018. She is a great addition to the staff. Part of bringing in a curate, as opposed to an associate-level priest, involved shifting some duties around. Father James assumed direct responsibility for Stewardship and Father Burl added Outreach to his other responsibilities. We also moved Turia Roebuck Hayden to full time Outreach and Development Coordinator. She has been very effective in those areas and in handling the outside media for Bethesda. Joann Labarca was also moved from part time to full time in 2018. In addition to Financial Assistant, Joann is also Retail Assistant. Her increased time in retail is spent, not at the church, but at the Church Mouse. Her retail experience and financial skills have been a great help to the management of the Mouse. Jonathan Rivera has been added to our sexton staff to fil the role of Hospitality Sexton. Staff and Parishioners are appreciating their attitude and work. Doug Kwoka has been with us for over a year now, but moved in 2018 from a temporary employee to the permanent Communications Coordinator. Finally, just in the last two weeks, Ayana Pineiro has moved into the role of Worship and Pastoral Care Coordinator.

In response to the emphasis on evangelism in 2018 we formed new committee to focus solely on evangelism and began working on evangelism awareness in liturgy, prayer, and communications. The Ambassador Ministry was moved to this new committee and we expanded the ministry to create new role of Welcoming Ambassadors. This new initiative is identifying visitors, welcoming them and connecting them other parishioners. The Evangelism committee also hosted a diocese-wide Evangelism 101/Way of Love workshop and visit by Canon Stephanie Spellers in December 2018.

At the Church Mouse, our efforts to cultivate and nurture relationships with our community partners, clientele, and experts generated referrals for estate donations. The management of our staff, volunteer base, and product research resulted in better work flow and timely replenishment on the sales floor. Our large box truck gave us the ability to seize the opportunity to pick up larger donations. This helped sales at the Mouse increase 6.5% over the previous year to \$989K.

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Fred E. Staley, Jr., Associate for Administration



# From the Associate for Music and Liturgy

Our Sunday services, aside from a few tweaks here and there, remained as they were revised last year. There are many people—staff and volunteer, visible and invisible—who make our services run smoothly.

The Altar Guild, under the leadership of Holly Breeden and Gay Gregory, continued work that is vital to our worship life. They dedicated many hours in preparation for all our services—not only those that we all experience on Sundays and at Christmas and Easter, but our regular weekday services, weddings, funerals, and many extra services throughout the course of the year. The Altar Guild numbers are down, so some members are having to serve much more often than in the past. Altar Guild members are invited by the Rector to serve. We are working to increase membership, so if you have interest in serving, please contact Father James.

The Flower Guild, with over one hundred members and under the direction of President Maury Wolfe, continued to provide beautiful and lovingly-executed arrangements that immeasurably enhanced our services. While many particularly noticed their handiwork at Christmas and Easter, they were responsible throughout the year for exceptional arrangements in the church—not only on Sundays but also for weddings and funerals.

Our Lay Readers continued to read lessons and prayers at our Sunday services, as well as at other special services, weddings, and funerals. We have a number of people, soon to be trained, who will join with those already serving.

We had a small but faithful group of people serving as Acolytes and Crucifers at our services. We always need more people for this important work, so, if you are interested, please contact me.

Our usher corps was once again coordinated by Jim Goodner and led by a faithful group of head ushers. We are always in need of additional ushers, so please let Jim or me know if you are interested.

Our Vergers assisted in all areas of worship and were a great help in coordinating those worship ministries so that everything ran smoothly in our services. They also were essential in providing leadership at the training sessions for those who served in various worship capacities. Several members moved away this year, and we are in the process of training a new group to join our veterans.

We have a very dedicated, but small, group of folks who operate our sound and/or video systems during services. These positions are crucial to the smooth operation of our services. If you have interest in being trained for either of these, please contact me.

The ever-popular Boar's Head Festival is our gift to the community, as well as a way for over one hundred fifty members of our parish family to work together on a large-scale project. The 2018 performances were well received by appreciative audiences. The Bethesda Choir continued to provide music for our 11:00 a.m. services, and a

quartet of those singers helped support music at our 9:00 a.m. services. Concerts and choral services during 2018 included our continuing series of First-Sunday Evensongs, each preceded by a half-hour recital. Other highlights included a Service of Advent Lessons and Carols, the annual Christmas Concert and Community Carol Sing, and a Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols. On Christmas Eve, after more than two-and-a-half years of silence, our tower bells once again pealed forth joyous sounds!

Respectfully Submitted,

Harold E. Vyhen

Harold E. Pysher, Associate for Music & Liturgy



# From the Associate for Christian Education, Pastoral Care, and Outreach

#### Bethesda Cares Committee—Michael Smyser and Suzanne Crawford, Co-Chairs Education Committee—Bill Eckberg, Chair Outreach Committee—Jodie Payne, Chair

And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives...(from The General Thanksgiving in Morning Prayer, The Book of Common Prayer 1979)

I am, every day, grateful for the immense blessings God bestows upon this community gathered around the Pool of Bethesda, and every day I am reminded that it is only with those particular members of the Body of Christ that we are able to accomplish what we set forth as goals every year. Countless hours of hard work and thoughtfulness and prayer go into what we do at Bethesda, and I am blessed every day to be a part of that work for the Kingdom of God.

This year, Suzanne Crawford and Michael Smyser have assumed the roles of co-chairs for Bethesda Cares, replacing Jodie Payne, whom I shall mention later in this report. We have asked four new persons to be Bethesda Shepherds, Stan Hastey, Gloria McAllister, Debbie Schram, and George Schram, and redistributed the Shepherd flock assignments. A training session for all Shepherds, new and old, is planned for early 2019. The meal ministry continues, under the guidance of the Shepherds, as do an array of ministries created and maintained in order to care for the members of this community and beyond. After Easter, nine of us traveled in retreat to the Monastery of the Holy Cross in West Park, New York, and we shall offer that experience again in 2020.

The past year has been another rich and active year in Christian formation for Bethesda. Greg Knight has tirelessly led a year of activities and wonderful experiences for children and youth, assisted by a strong team of volunteers, and we look forward to following them on their pilgrimage to Assisi this summer. We have maintained a full and varied schedule of Sunday morning forums for adult formation, and our Wednesday evening Middle Way has remained strong and deep, feeding body, mind, and soul in the middle of our various weekly activities. Our two retreats this year, Lent and Advent, were the envy of many, and we are blessed to have been able to bring Rachel Held Evans here in March and the Rev. Canon Stephanie Spellers here in December, both of whom deepened our understanding of what it means to be people of faith. I am grateful to Bill Eckberg for his leadership of the Education Committee during my tenure here and look forward to working with Lois Clemente, who has agreed to assume that role for 2019.

Outreach at Bethesda continues to be full-throttle. Funded by the hard work of the staff and volunteers at the Church Mouse, our outreach to the community around the corner and around the world is allocated in three areas, education, food, and shelter, and totaled half-a-million dollars in 2018. Feeding in February was a rousing success and the mentorship program at Lake Worth High School continues to better the lives of young people, with whom we maintain relationships through their undergraduate careers. After years of dedicated service, Pat Reichenbacher

asked to pass on the leadership of the Outreach Committee, and Jodie Payne has accepted that responsibility. Pat will retain direction of the mentorship program and has graciously agreed to chair Empty Bowls a final time in 2019. We are grateful for all those who work in these three areas of Christ's ministry to the needful world and we are particularly grateful for Pat and Dietmar's ministry through the years.

The year that is past has been rewarding and rich, and I count my blessings to have been a part of the work God has given us to do. I ask your prayers as we continue to be the hands and feet of Christ in this corner of the world.

Respectfully,



The Rev. Burl Salmon, Associate for Christian Education, Pastoral Care, and Outreach

## From the Curate

When I arrived at Bethesda-by-the-Sea in June, just days after my graduation from seminary, I wasn't sure what to expect. I found a warm and welcoming community where every day brings something new. I can imagine no better place to begin my ordained ministry, and no better group of people to learn from.

As Curate, I am not responsible for any one program area, but have an opportunity to help with many of the ministries of Bethesda. At Sunday morning forums in the fall, we focused on civil discourse — how to do it, and why it matters. At Middle Way, adults preparing for Confirmation shared their stories and talked about the basics of the Christian faith. On Tuesday nights, the Education for Ministry group studied the Bible, Church history, and theology. And every Sunday, we live into the rhythms of the Church year through liturgy, preaching, and music.

This has been a year of milestones for me personally — ordination as a deacon, graduation from seminary, the move to Palm Beach, ordination as a priest. It has also been a year of firsts — my first celebration of the Eucharist, first funeral, first Christmas season as a priest, first Boar's Head, and so many more. I look forward to a new year of firsts in which we walk together in our common mission to seek and serve God in all that we do.

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The Rev. Margaret McGhee, Curate



# From the Director of Children and Youth Ministries

I struggle with hope. Faith and love, these are concepts I can understand and usually embrace. But hope, hope is a challenge. The problem is that I'm a skeptic by nature. I believe it when I see it and sometimes not even then. I always look for what can be improved. I constantly search for what can be tweaked. I think it's in the nature of those who minister to children and youth to tinker with what we do from year to year in an attempt to meet the formation needs of our young people in a way that is authentic and fulfilling.

Those improvements come not from a place of hope, but from data. I looked back over years of Sunday School attendance, youth group participation, and sign ups for liturgical ministries. I can say, based on the numbers that I see in these three areas over the last year that there is reason to be extremely hopeful for the children and youth ministries at Bethesda-by-the-Sea. Our average weekly Sunday School attendance has finally started to trend upward. Our high school attendance has grown to six times the participation that we had four years ago at this time. Children and youth have served as acolytes, lectors, and even lay Eucharistic ministers over the past year. These are all hopeful and encouraging facts.

Our Lower Elementary (Kindergarten-2nd Grade) and Upper Elementary (3rd Grade-5th Grade) have gone back to a rotation model of learning, something that worked extremely well for us my first year as Director of Children and Youth Ministries at Bethesda and has been met with enthusiasm by children and teachers. Through a variety of learning workshops including Art with teachers Jennifer Anttila and Michelle Lese, Games with teachers Ejola Cook and Maria Turkki, Science with teachers Kenlynne Mulroy and Kirsten Plymel, and Cooking with teachers Michelle Diffenderfer and Johanna Reyers, our children have the opportunity to really explore the stories of our faith in a fun, interactive way.

In addition to our children's offerings we also feature a 6th/7th Grade Pre-Confirmation Class taught by Raphael Clemente and Beth Cole that asks tough questions of faith and life. Our 8th Grade Confirmation Class taught by myself builds off of those questions by engaging the beliefs of our young people. And finally, the spiritual journey continues with our 9th-12th Grade Pilgrimage Group where instructors Cody and Ashley Fogwell along with Lois Clemente work with our teenagers to plan a 70-mile hiking pilgrimage walking the Way of St. Francis to Assisi, Italy.

Our Coordinator of Children's Ministries, Jessica Hitchcock, teaches our Little Way for Kindergarten through 5th Grade on Wednesday evenings, where children learn more about what it means to be an active participant in the worship life of our community, and our Bethesda Youth Group, a fellowship offering for our 6th through 12th graders. And, of course, we have our traditional fun event offerings for all ages, including our Christmas Pageent, Spring Carpival, and Faster Egg Hunt. Mardi Grag, Trivia Night, Pageut

Pageant, Spring Carnival, and Easter Egg Hunt, Mardi Gras, Trivia Night, Peanut Island Camping Trip, Vacation Bible School, and more.

I love the work that God has given me to do in the lives of our youngest members at Bethesda. I have faith that the stories and traditions of our Episcopal identity will allow them to grow to be spiritually healthy Christian adults. And I have a real hope that this ministry continues to expand to include more young minds who are curious about the way Jesus can use their lives to help others.

Respectfully Submitted,

A Part

Greg Knight, Director of Children and Youth Ministries



#### 2018 Necrology

Anthony Allen Mary Stewart Colwell Broberg George Douglas Buckner II Jane Ann Hadley Caruso Joan Thelma Norem Cornell Elizabeth Iola Webb Feagans Stuart Elsworth Feick Sara Rohm Gadd James A. Garrison Elesabeth Ingalls Gillet Ruth Arnold Crandall Greenhalgh John Robert Kausal Donald W. Lovejoy Katharine White McLennan Lynn H. Olson Jennie King Scaife Marie D. Schwartz Ann Marie Maurer Syverson Glen Edwin Tagatz Ann Stuart Coale Tylander Lory Armstrong Volk Harriette Burbank Waddell

### 2018 Bequests

We give thanks to God for the generosity of these beloved members of our parish family who this year provided for Bethesda's future life and ministry with a legacy gift:

Mary Hulitar

#### Services for 2018

4
2
6
1

Holy Eucharists	260
Holy Eucharists (Private)	141
Morning Prayers	. 22
Complines	. 27
Stations of the Cross, Good Friday	1
Evensongs	7

#### Transitions

Baptism 2	4
Confirmation 2	3
Transferred In	0
Transferred Out 5	3
Lost by Death 2	3

### **Finance Report**

**Finance Sub-Committee**: Peggy Johnson, *Chair*, and Zach Shipley, *Treasurer* **Audit Sub-Committee**: Charles McGill, *Chair* 

#### **Income Statement**

2018 Year-End Total Revenue of \$3,282k was \$74k or 2.2% less than budgeted for the year. 2018 Year-End Total Expenses of \$3,273k were \$84k or 2.6% favorably less than budget of \$3,357k. BBTS had a year-end 2018 net SURPLUS of \$10k which favorably exceeds expected budget by \$9.6k.

Annual campaign contributions in 2018 were \$2,074,021, a slight 1.4% increase over 2017 contributions.

#### SUMMARY INCOME STATEMENT Church of Bethesda-by-the-Sea - Operating Fund Period Ending December 31 (\$ thousands)

							Draft
REVENUE	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Unrestricted Gifts	\$ 1,815 \$	\$ 2,063	\$ 2,001	\$ 1,865	\$ 2,070	\$ 2,228	\$ 2,251
General Endowment Draw	152	193	231	259	266	269	278
Building Endowment Draw	20	38	76	136	118	127	146
Other Revenue	228	205	571	595	581	687	607
TOTAL REVENUE	2,215	2,499	2,879	2,855	3 <i>,</i> 035	3,311	3,282
EXPENSES							
Payroll & Benefits	1,202	1,330	1,425	1,381	1,496	1,587	1,575
Diocesan Assessment	307	284	288	312	315	273	319
Other Expenses	660	779	1,003	1,152	1,156	1,417	1,379
TOTAL EXPENSES	2,169	2,393	2,716	2,845	2,967	3,277	3,273
NET OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	46	106	163	10	68	34	10

#### **Balance Sheet**

Total assets decreased by 1.8 Million during 2018 mainly due to unfavorable investment outcomes. Despite the recent decrease in market value of our investments, our endowments remain more than 20% larger than they were 3 years ago due to our conservative 4% per year draw policy.

#### SUMMARY BALANCE SHEET Church of Bethesda-by-the-Sea - Operating & Non-Operating Funds Period Ending December 31 (\$ thousands)

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
ASSETS					
Cash	\$ 406	328	374	922	722
Other Current Assests	511	439	455	433	454
Restricted/Consolidated Fund	1,927	1,593	1,530	1,760	1660
Common Endowment	6,791	6,498	6,659	7,636	6921
Restoration & Preservation	4,380	4,094	4,118	4,168	3835
Other Designated/Restricted Funds	2,922	2,934	2,987	3,688	3568
Pledges Receivable - R&P	1,740	1,640	789	695	695
Fixed Assets	5144	6,134	7,368	7,746	7409
TOTAL ASSETS	23,821	23,660	24,280	27,048	25,264
LIABILITIES					
Payables	441	393	425	393	157
TOTAL LIABILITIES	441	393	425	393	157
CAPITAL	23,380	23,267	23,855	26,655	25,107
TOTAL LIABILITIES & CAPITAL	23,821	23,660	24,280	27,048	25,264

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> Bethesda's Mission is to experience the clear and strong presence of God and to understand and spread Christ's teachings through collective worship, learning, and service.

# Agenda for 2019 Annual Meeting

Call to Order	
Opening Prayer and Necrology	The Rev. Burl Salmon
Acceptance of Minutes	
Election of New Vestry Members The Rector and	d Paul Coombs, Nominating Committee Chair
Finance and Stewardship Report P	eggy Johnson, Chair, Finance Sub-Committee
Junior Warden's Report	Constance N. Purcell, Junior Warden
Rector's Address	The Rev. James R. Harlan
Other Business	
Closing Prayer and Blessing.	The Rev. Margaret McGhee

# Tellers

Bill and Marcia Cini Jethro Hurt

# Minutes of the 2018 Annual Meeting

**Call to Order:** The Rev. James Harlan called the 129th annual meeting to order at 9:15 a.m., noting that there was a quorum present.

**Opening Prayer & Necrology:** The Rev. Burl Salmon opened with prayer and recited the 2017 necrology.

#### Acceptance of Minutes

**Motion:** A motion was made by Jim Goodner and seconded by Peg Ekberg to accept the minutes of the 2017 annual meeting as written in the distributed annual report. The motion passed unanimously.

#### Vestry

**Outgoing Vestry:** Father James and the Senior Warden, Beth Cole, thanked the outgoing Vestry members, Barbara Callahan, Frances Fisher, David Paulson, Sandra Stern, Gary Sullivan, and Chuck Zettler. Outgoing members were each presented with a commemorative gift in appreciation for their years of service.

#### **ELECTION OF NEW VESTRY MEMBERS**

**Vestry Nominations:** Father James announced that the Nominating Committee had nominated the following four people to serve three-year terms on the Vestry: Raphael Clemente, Chuck Hagy, Connie Purcell, and Wendy Victor.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Peg Ekberg and seconded by Mike Victor to elect the proposed slate of four candidates by acclamation and a voice vote. The motion passed unanimously.

**Finance and Stewardship Report:** Father James gave an overall financial report that showed continual growth with an increase in giving, as well as an increase in total expense, making it possible to break even. Going forward, the 2018 budget that will be bigger-once again planning for the responsible goal of breaking even. The importance of contributions from parishioners for operating revenue was stressed.

Paul Coombs, Stewardship Chairman, reported that 424 households made pledges during 2017 and emphasized the impact that contributions make - 67% of what is spent is dependent on contributions. The Heritage Society will be emphasized for Bethesda's future continuity.

**Junior Warden's Report:** Father James made note of the projects that have been completed during 2017: the building facade project; carpet replacement in upstairs south and north offices, the Rector's Office and the Reception Office and wood refinishing for Choir Room floor; and the installation of the room divider in the Parish Hall which increases room usage.

**Rector's Address:** Father James addressed the Meeting. He referred to the Celtic Hymn, "Be Thou My Vision" as inspiration for the journey of the congregation from a period of transition to one of stability. The hymn also inspires a deeper vision, wisdom, and joy for the church to spread the light of Christ. He and the Senior Warden gave information regarding his sabbatical in 2018 and the pilgrimage in 2019. He thanked the Vestry, associates, staff, committees, sub-committees, and parishioners for faithful work during the past year. He presented Rector's Crosses to Holly Breeden and Maury Wolfe for their dedication to the work of the Altar Guild and the Flower Guild.

Adjournment: The Rev. Thomas Morris offered a closing prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

### **Clergy and Staff**

#### **Rector and Associates**

The Rev. James R. Harlan, *Rector* Harold E. Pysher, *Associate for Music & Liturgy* The Rev. Burl Salmon, *Associate for Christian Education, Pastoral Care, and Outreach* Fred E. Staley, *Associate for Administration* The Rev. Margaret E. McGhee, *Curate* 

#### Non-Stipendiary Assisting Clergy

The Rev. Canon Elizabeth R. Geitz, *Assisting Priest* The Rev. Dr. Cecily J. Titcomb, *Deacon for Spiritual Direction & Pastoral Care (Nov.–May)* The Rev. Clayton B. Waddell, *Deacon for Port Ministry* 

#### STAFF

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COORDINATORS Turia Roebuck-Hayden, *Outreach & Development Coordinator* Jessica Reed Hitchcock, *Children & Youth Ministries Coordinator* Douglas Kwoka, *Communications Coordinator* April Lawrence, *Evangelism, Fellowship & Membership Coordinator* Ayana Pineiro, *Worship & Pastoral Care Coordinator* 

> Administrative Staff Joann LaBarca, *Financial & Retail Assistant*

SEXTONS Robert Mancuso, Sexton for Liturgical Support Keith Risley, Sexton for Grounds Jonathan Rivera, Sexton for Hospitality William Thompson III, Sexton for Building Preservation & Lead Sexton

> THE CHURCH MOUSE AND THE SHOPPE STAFF Daisy Alvarez, *General Manager for Retail Operations* Evaristo Riestra, *General Manager of the Church Mouse* Rosie Cartagena, *Seamstress* Jonathan Goodine, *Receiving Specialist*



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